



Activities Calendar — June - November, 2003



A Slower Pace

Biscayne National Park offers a variety of boat trips, ranger presentations and special events to help you gain an appreciation for this very special place. Summer and fall are generally the best time of year to visit the Park’s reefs and boat on its waters. Although weekends can be quite busy, weekdays often provide an opportunity to have parts of the park all to yourself. Take time to unwind in a rocking chair on the front porch of the visitor center, admire the art in the Dante Fascell Visitor Center gallery, float above a coral garden, or enjoy a family picnic by the water. A complete, up-to-the-minute calendar of events is available by clicking the “Events Calendar” link on the Park’s website: www.nps.gov/bisc/

Boat Trips

Ninety-five percent of Biscayne National Park is covered by water, and a boat trip is the best way to see it. The park’s concessioner offers a variety of trips. All departures are weather dependent and subject to passenger minimums. *Call 305-230-1100 for information and reservations.*

Glass Bottom Boat
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Daily

Visiting the reefs and islands of Biscayne National Park is a highlight of any visit. Calm seas will allow you to view the spectacular underwater world of the coral reef, while windy days afford an opportunity to explore the northernmost Florida Keys on foot. Fees are \$24.45 for adults, \$19.45 for seniors, and \$16.45 for kids under 12, plus tax.

Snorkeling Trip
1:15 to 4:30 p.m. Daily

One of the best ways to appreciate the beauty of the park is by snorkeling in Biscayne Bay or on the coral reefs offshore. Fee, which includes equipment rental, is \$35.00 per person, plus tax.

Scuba Diving
8:30 a.m. Saturdays & Sundays

Certified divers can discover the wonder and pristine beauty of South Florida’s living coral reefs up close and personal. A two-tank dive is \$54.00, plus tax. Fee includes tanks and weights, but additional equipment rental is extra.

Talks, Walks and Art

Ranger’s Choice
2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday

Mangroves and corals, turtles and manatees, pirates and pioneers — all are a part of Biscayne’s story. From porch talks to short walks, learn about Biscayne’s diverse resources with a park ranger. Programs range from 20 minutes to an hour. Call 305-230-7275, or check with a ranger for the day’s topic. Meet on the front porch of the Dante Fascell Visitor Center.

Biscayne’s Natural Beauty As Seen by Young Artists
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Daily
June 12 through October 19

In December, 2002, 6th to 12th grade students from Atlantis Academy in Kendall took photography expeditions to Biscayne National Park’s reefs and islands, courtesy of the Captain Bob Lewis Boat Center Yamaha Billfish Challenge. Nearly 30 of these black and white images were donated to the park and are gathered in the first student exhibition in the park’s Dante Fascell Visitor Center Gallery.



Cleanups, scavenger hunts, classes — don’t miss our special activities on back!

June	<p>National Fishing Week (All Month Long!) Celebrate with free fishing pole loans. Poles available on a first-come, first-served basis. Florida residents fishing from land and those under 16 years of age do not need a fishing license, but do BYOB (bring your own bait). Made possible by <i>Fish and Game Unlimited of Homestead</i>.</p>	<p>June 1 through June 30 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</p>
July	<p>The Great Annual Fish Count Divers are invited to join REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) and park staff in conducting fish population surveys. A morning fish identification seminar will be followed by a specially-priced two tank afternoon dive trip to practice newfound skills. The two-part registration process includes online registration at www.reef.org and dive trip sign-up with the park's concessioner at 305-230-1100. Cost is \$30 per diver, weights included. All other gear must be provided by the diver or rented.</p> <p>Lobster Seminars How can you tell a male lobster from a female? What's the proper way to measure a lobster? And exactly where IS that sanctuary boundary? Just in time for the two-day spiny lobster sport season on July 30 & 31, join Biscayne National Park staff and representatives from other agencies for a look at lobster habitat, biology and identification, as well as all the pertinent rules and regulations for lobstering both inside and outside the park.</p>	<p>Saturday, July 19 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, July 20 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Overflow day — offered only if July 19 fills up)</p> <p>Monday, July 21 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. West Marine 3635 S. Dixie Highway, Coconut Grove</p> <p>Tuesday, July 22 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Diver's Direct Outlet 328 SE 1st Avenue, Florida City</p>
August	<p>National Park Service Founders Day National Parks have been called “the best idea America ever had.” On August 25, 1916, the National Park Service was established to protect some of this nation's greatest treasures. Celebrate our 82nd birthday by taking a closer look at these special places with hands-on activities for kids of all ages in the <i>Think Tank</i> education center (a mini-Family Fun Fest!).</p>	<p>Sunday, August 24 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.</p>
September	<p>International Coastal Cleanup Here's a great opportunity to help remove the many tons of debris that wash onto the Park's shorelines each year, while contributing to important research on marine debris by recording what you find. Call 305-230-7275 for sign-up details.</p>	<p>Saturday, September 20 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</p>
October	<p>Halloween Hunt Its Environmental Education in Disguise! Our second-annual Halloween Hunt provides a family-friendly alternative to traditional late-October festivities. Meet pirates, snakes and other misunderstood characters as you gather clues in a giant scavenger hunt designed to help take the mystery out of Biscayne National Park's many resources.</p>	<p>Sunday, October 26 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.</p>



Unless otherwise noted, all activities take place at the Dante Fascell Visitor Center, 9700 SW 328 Street, Homestead.